LURGAN URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Superintendent Officer of Health,

SAMUEL AGNEW, M.A., M.D.,

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

LURGAN:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "LURGAN MAIL."

1901.

LURGAN URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SAMUEL AGNEW, M.A., M.D.,

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
LURGAN.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

During the month of May in the past year, the Local Government Board, by virtue of the powers conferred upon them in section 11 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, issued a new series of Sanitary Orders, defining and laying down in unequivocal language the duties which they require to be performed by the different Sanitary Officers. The previous orders made under this section were couched in such general terms that some of the officers themselves, and a great many of the sanitary authorities, never exactly understood the relative positions of the Medical Officer of Health and the Consulting Sanitary Officer.

The office of Consulting Sanitary Officer is now to be gradually abolished; no new appointments will be made, and in their stead, sanitary authorities are to be encouraged to appoint Medical Superintendent Officers of Health, in accordance with the original intention of the Public Health Act. This change was effected in Lurgan in the latter part of the year 1899, when the Local Government Board suggested

that I should resign the office of Consulting Sanitary Officer, and be appointed in lieu thereof—Medical Superintendent Officer of Health. At the time of my appointment, the duties of M.S.O.H. were laid down by the Local Government Board, as follows, viz. :—"To discharge all the duties of Consulting Sanitary Officer, and, in addition, to report monthly on the general sanitary condition of the district, and on the discharge of their duties by the M.O.H. and Sanitary Sub-Officers."

Now, the duties of Consulting Sanitary Officer were "to attend the meetings of the Sanitary Authority whenever required to do so, and to advise them on all matters and proceedings requiring medical knowledge, and advice in the administration of the sanitary laws." When you compare these duties with those of M.S.O.H., as laid down in the new orders, you will easily perceive that this officer is a much more responsible individual. He is really placed in charge of the district, to look after its well-being; to see that everything that may, from a sanitary point of view, affect the lives and health of the inhabitants is attended to; that all nuisances are abated and all preventible sickness prevented, so far as the law empowers the Sanitary Authority to take cognizance of such matters; to take immediate steps on the occurrence or outbreak of any of the more infectious diseases to prevent their spread, and, in fact, to keep an ever-watchful eye on every corner of the district, and see that nothing exists or occurs which is calculated to raise the mortality and sickness rates above what they ought to be.

The M.S.O.H. is further obliged to attend all meetings of the Sanitary Authority, and to furnish a monthly report of his proceedings and the measures which may require to be adopted for the improvement or protection of the public health in the district, and also to make an annual report up to the end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken, or which he has advised the Sanitary Authority to take, during the year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the sanitary state of the district at the end of the year.

This report shall also contain an account of the inquiries he has made as to conditions injurious to health existing in his district, and of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under any statute, so far as those proceedings relate to those conditions; and also an account of the supervision exercised by him, or on his advice, for sanitary purposes, over places and houses that the Sanitary Authority may have power to regulate, with the nature and result of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. The report shall also record the action taken by him, or on his advice, in regard to offensive trades, to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, and to factories and workshops." The duties which were previously laid down in a couple of paragraphs are now comprised in twenty-two distinct clauses, and I would suggest that each member of the Council should be provided with a pocket copy of the order No. 2, which relates to urban districts.

In discharge, therefore, of my duty, I beg to submit the following report for the year 1900, being the last year of the decade, as well as the closing year of the century:—

The number of births registered was, with one exception, the largest of any year of the decennium, viz., 404; in 1895 407 were registered. The birth-rate was accordingly 35·3, compared with 31·2 in 1899, and 31·3 in 1898.

The number of deaths registered was 280, giving a death-rate of 24·5, compared with 22·3 in 1899, and 20·6 in 1898.

This high death-rate was brought about almost entirely by the large number of deaths which occurred during the first quarter of the year in consequence of a very serious epidemic of influenza, which was especially fatal to the aged and debilitated members of the community. I have prepared a number of tables which you will find included in this report, and which will, I believe, convey some very interesting information regarding the vital statistics of the district, as well as a table showing the mortality in the ten principal towns in Ulster.

Of the 280 deaths registered, 62 were those of children in

their first year, and 84 were of persons who had lived at least 60 years. Only 16 deaths resulted from zymotic or preventible disease, compared with 20 in 1899 and 32 in 1898. The death-rate from zymotic disease was therefore only 1·4, compared with 1·6 in 1899 and 2·8 in 1898. Seven deaths were caused by whooping-cough, three by diphtheria, and six by diarrhoea. Not a single death was registered from smallpox, measles, scarlatina, enteric fever, simple continued fever, or typhus, so that, so far as the really preventible diseases are concerned, the Council is to be congratulated on the condition of the district.

Thirty-seven deaths were, however, due to phthisis, and 70 to disease of the respiratory organs. The occurrence of such a large number of deaths from phthisis each year, even in a small community like ours, is, in view of the recent and unquestionably correct views held by the medical profession regarding the nature and preventibility of this disease, a matter for very grave reflection. When we consider that it finds the largest number of its victims amongst young adolescents and those who ought to be in the prime of life—and, at the same time, are bound to admit that it is a disease which can in a great measure be prevented—we must come to the conclusion that a very serious responsibility devolves on those to whom should properly fall the task of coping with it.

The erection of proper sanatoria for the open-air treatment of such patients as have unfortunately contracted this disease, is, in my opinion, a matter of national importance; and the number of cases that occur annually in Ireland should compel the provision of at least one such fully-equipped establishment in each province, with possibly an additional central one in County Dublin, to which selected patients could be sent.

The treatment of consumptive patients at their own homes is a source of danger to the rest of the family, as well as to those who are brought into contact with them, and I trust that the different Boards of Guardians will readily fall in with the suggestions of the Local Government Board, and

enable the medical officers to conduct the treatment of such cases in accordance with modern enlightened ideas. A great point will be gained when such patients are educated to believe in the communicability of the disease, and the necessity that exists for taking precautions to prevent those near and dear to them from likewise falling victims. The presence of two or three phthisical patients in a ward where other patients are recovering from some acute disease, and are in consequence in a very susceptible condition, is most undesirable, and in fact should not be tolerated.

The amount to be paid under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, is £5 6s. 0d., which is the smallest sum paid in any year since the Act was enforced in this district. For the year 1899 the amount paid was £5 15s. 0d., and for 1898, £7 16s. 0d. Fifty cases were notified by the various doctors practising in the town, and I must again express my thanks to one and all of them for the great assistance afforded to me in getting the patients isolated, and immediate steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Fifteen cases of typhoid fever were notified, and 25 of scarlatina, 7 of diphtheria, 2 of erysipelas, and one of simple continued fever. Of the 15 typhoid patients, 12 were removed to hospital, and three were treated at home, circumstances permitting the cases to be properly isolated, and all necessary precautions against the spread of the infection taken. The houses and contents were fumigated, and the usual measures adopted, and in no instance did the disease spread beyond the first patient.

The 25 cases of scarlatina were all distinct outbreaks; no connection could be traced between any two, except in one instance, where a second case occurred in a house in William Street, and this is the only instance in which the infection spread beyond the first patient attacked. All the patients were removed to hospital, with the exception of four, including the above two cases in William Street. Five of the cases occurred amongst the children in the Workhouse, where the infection was traced to the Fever Hospital, the mother of

some of the children being employed in that department as a wardswoman. In all the other cases, I believe the infection was brought in from the neighbouring rural districts, where scarlatina has been more or less epidemic during the whole year.

Notwithstanding the prevalence of this disease in the neighbourhood, and the enormous facilities that exist for communicating it to the children in the town, it is most satisfactory to find that we have been so successful in coping with it, and preventing it from spreading when introduced. This has been entirely due to the early information received under the Notification Act, and I have no hesitation in stating that the value received for the money spent under this Act is simply incalculable, and I trust the day is not far distant when the Act will be made compulsory throughout Ireland, the same as it is in England and Wales.

The following table shows the monthly distribution of the diseases notified during 1900 :—

TABLE A.

	E't'ric fev'r.	Simple con'd fever.	Diphtheria.	Scarlatina.	Erysipelas.	Total.
January ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
February ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
March ...	0	1	0	3	0	4
April	3	0	2	0	0	5
May	0	0	1	0	1	2
June	1	0	0	1	0	2
July	3	0	0	0	0	3
August	4	0	1	2	0	7
September ...	2	0	0	1	1	4
October ...	1	0	2	5	0	8
November ...	0	0	1	9	0	10
December ...	1	0	0	4	0	5
Total ...	15	1	7	25	2	50

I have repeatedly been obliged during the year to draw your attention to the serious nuisance caused in many instances by the existence of midden privies, which had been allowed to get into such a condition as to constitute a source of danger to the public health, and in all these cases I recommended that properly-constructed water-closets should be substituted.

The Council having adopted my recommendations, I am happy to state that, in nearly all the cases, the alterations were carried out without any friction, and palpably to the great improvement of the different properties affected. In only a few instances were we obliged to ask for Magistrates' Orders to enforce the changes, and with one or two exceptions these were granted. It is to be regretted that these exceptions did occur, but I have no doubt that our ideas will ultimately be fallen in with, as the labouring and artizan classes are now fully aware of the desirability of having their houses in a proper sanitary condition, and landlords will find ere long that, for their own protection, they will be obliged to provide the houses with proper sanitary conveniences.

The vast improvement effected in and around the dwellings of the working classes by the provision of a separate tiled yard for each house, containing a water-closet and dry ashpit, requires to be seen to be appreciated. Where only a midden privy exists there is no proper means for disposing of the household slops that require to be got rid of daily. These must, under such circumstances, be thrown either into the cesspit or midden, which in that case becomes a filthy cesspool, giving forth noisome odours every time its contents are disturbed, and continually polluting the atmosphere; or they are emptied into the gully-trap connected with the house-drain, and in the latter case an equally dangerous condition is produced, as the trap is nothing but a small cesspool, which is continually giving forth its dangerous emanations.

On the other hand, the water-closet forms a suitable and convenient means of disposing of these slops, and the presence

of the flushing apparatus effectually does away with everything offensive.

Another condition of affairs on which I had repeatedly occasion to animadvert, was the manner in which pigs were kept in various parts of the town. Although these were usually housed beyond the required distance from the dwelling houses, yet the absence of proper manure pits and drainage created a very serious nuisance, and one that was calculated to injuriously affect the public health and promote the occurrence of disease, in consequence of the pollution of the surrounding soil.

It is fully recognised that this pollution of the soil is one of the most potent factors in bringing about the spread of typhoid fever, and lengthened observations have led me to the conclusion that a soil contaminated by the manure from piggeries is especially serviceable for that purpose.

It may be that the germs of enteric or typhoid fever, when propagated in such a soil, become exceptionally virulent, or that the ordinary bacilli coli, which swarm in such a soil—but which are not usually very aggressive—acquire such a character that when introduced into the human system they produce such an altered condition as to render it more congenial to the development of the enteric bacillus.

At any rate, it is the obvious duty of a Sanitary Authority to prevent, if possible, all such conditions. No pigs should be housed, even in properly-constructed styes, at less than 50 feet from a dwelling-house, or cowshed, where dairy cows are kept.

Moreover, I find that the persons who insist on keeping pigs under such conditions are mostly people who have no regard for the rights of their neighbours, keep their own houses in a filthy condition, and who in an eminent degree require to be protected from themselves.

During the summer months, the registered dairy-keepers were instructed to make such alterations as were considered absolutely necessary to improve the sanitary condition of their cowsheds, and to preserve the purity of their milk. The

supervision of these cowsheds is one of the most important duties that devolve on the Health Officer, and as this is one of the new duties that have been cast upon us by the new orders, I have paid special attention to the matter. The general condition of the cowsheds in Lurgan is such that a great change is required to be effected before a proper standard is reached in the housing of the cows, and the keeping of the animals under conditions that are consistent with perfect health.

Cows, like human beings, suffer from overcrowding and defective ventilation, and unless kept in perfect health they cannot be expected to furnish good and wholesome milk. They are very prone, when kept under insanitary conditions in close, confined and badly-ventilated byres, to develop tuberculosis, and as this disease is easily communicable, the presence of one animal suffering from it will very soon permit the disease to spread to the others housed with it.

Now, the drinking of tuberculous milk is a great source of danger, and is, I believe, the immediate cause of the great amount of tuberculosis that affects and carries off our infantile population; and the State, recognising the importance of this matter, has thrown upon the Sanitary Authority the duty of preventing the public from getting the infection through this channel. And I am fully persuaded that the law in this respect will become in a short time more stringent, and that what is now voluntary will be made compulsory—that the conditions under which animals may be kept for the supply of milk to the public will be strictly laid down, and not left to the whim or caprice of any Sanitary Authority.

A very great many improvements have been completed by the various owners, and nearly all have shown a laudable desire to fall in with my suggestions, but yet a great deal remains to be done, and I am hopeful that the intelligent dairymen of Lurgan will soon be persuaded that it is not a judicious arrangement to keep their cows in a close, super-heated atmosphere, even though this may tend to an increased production of milk. In all new cowsheds a cubic space of

800 feet should be insisted on for each cow, and although we are satisfied with 600 cubic feet in those sheds that have been in existence, yet it would be better if old cowsheds could be gradually brought to conform to the 800 feet standard.

In addition to the Magistrates' Orders which we sought to secure the abatement of nuisances, we also applied under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, for closing orders against certain houses in Burns' Court, North Street, and in Totton's Court, which were considered unfit for human habitation. The case regarding the latter has been adjourned, and is not yet disposed of; but closing orders were granted against the former houses - a result which is very satisfactory, as the houses could not, in my opinion, have been made suitable for human beings. I trust that a similar conclusion may be come to in the case of Totton's Court, as this is one of the last remaining slums in the town, and is not only unfit to be lived in, but it forms a great obstacle to the improvement of the entire lane from which it is an off-shoot.

During the year some 260 additional houses have been provided with the town water, so that now more than half the total houses in the town have been thus supplied. This is very encouraging, inasmuch as the large majority of these houses have been connected in obedience to notices served on the owners by the Council for the providing of water-closets instead of the ordinary midden privies. I have already referred to this subject, and shall merely content myself with expressing the hope that in the near future the greater portion of the remainder will be similarly provided.

The daily quantity of water used has been about 200,000 gallons, or about 17 gallons per head of the population per diem, so that the pumps were obliged to work, on an average, 9 hours daily.

Our opinion frequently expressed regarding the character and suitability of the Lough water, when filtered, for a town supply, has been fully borne out by experience. It undoubtedly is an immense boon to the inhabitants that such an inexhaustible supply of first-class water should be at their

service; and now that the cost of obtaining it has been fined down until it has ceased to be a serious burthen on the rates, I think that both the old Commissioners and new Councillors are to be congratulated.

I am reliably informed that in 1880—the year in which I became your Medical Officer of Health—the town rates were 5s. 1d. in the pound, and the Poor-rate 2s., making a total of 7s. 1d. in the pound on the valuation, whilst the total amount of the combined rate is at present only 6s. 3d.; and, in the meantime, the town has been provided with a splendid supply of water at a cost of £28,000, and two very important improvement schemes have been carried out under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Regarding the latter, I should mention that very considerable progress has been made during the past year, and it is expected that the ultimate disposition of the ground thus acquired will be very soon settled, I hope to the satisfaction and benefit of the ratepayers. From a sanitary point of view, there is no question as to the enormous advantage that the town has derived from the opening up of the two unhealthy localities comprehended in the schemes, areas which, I believe, could not have been otherwise dealt with, unless, perhaps, through the intervention of some philanthropist.

During the year a scheme was formulated for the sewerage of the properties adjacent to the Lough Road and Victoria Street. The necessary Local Government Board Inquiry was held by Mr. Cowan, Chief Engineering Inspector, and sanction given, but owing to the excessive amount of the tenders it was not deemed advisable to go on with the work until the coming spring, when fresh tenders will be again asked for.

As frequently advised by me, the Council decided to erect a public Abattoir, and after frequent deliberations and consultations, a site was chosen on the Distillery premises, and the amount proposed to be expended, viz., £1,000, agreed

upon. The usual Local Government Board Inquiry was held, but owing to some objections having been raised regarding the proposed drainage of the premises, the sanction of the Board has not yet been obtained.

The difficulty thus raised can be very easily overcome, either by continuing our sewer down to Victoria Street, or by interposing a small filter-bed, and purifying the drainage before it reaches the water in the tail-race.

The additional cost of either alternative cannot be very much, and I trust that steps will be immediately taken to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government Board. There are now only two licensed slaughter-houses within the town boundary, but a number of most unsuitable buildings are being used as such, and the magistrates have actually refused to convict in such cases, even though the defendants admit their guilt, until the Council make proper provision for the slaughtering of animals by putting up a public Abattoir.

I was enabled in December to recommend the Local Government Board to sanction the permanent appointment of the Sanitary Sub-Officer, Mr. Richard Elliott, a recommendation which they have adopted. He has been discharging his duties in a satisfactory manner, and will, I believe, make a fairly good officer, especially if he is closely supervised, as he is bound to be under the new Sanitary Orders. He has, during the period of probation, drawn my attention to a very large number of matters requiring attention. His supervision of the scavenger is not all that could be desired, but with the great improvement that will be made on the streets by the introduction of road-rolling, the duties of the latter official should be much more satisfactorily discharged in the future than they have been in the past.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the

principal zymotic diseases, and the zymotic death-rate in the principal towns in Ulster during the year 1900:—

TABLE B.

Showing the number of deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the principal Urban Sanitary Districts in Ulster, during 1900, and the zymotic death-rate per 1,000 of the population.

	Smallpox.	Measles.	S'rlet f'v'r.	Typhus.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Si'ple con'd fever.	E'ric fever.	D'hoea and Dysentry.	Total.	Zytmotic Death Rate
Belfast -	0	42	14	2	115	54	8	261	241	737	2·1
L'derry -	0	8	0	4	8	2	0	1	27	50	1·5
Newry -	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	8	11	0·8
Lisburn -	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	14	4	21	1·7
Lurgan -	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	6	16	1·4
B'lymena	0	0	0	0	9	3	0	1	3	16	1·7
New'ards	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	6	0·7
C'fergus -	0	8	0	0	2	1	0	2	3	16	1·8
P'down -	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	9	1·1
Armagh -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0·3

TABLE C.

Showing the death-rate in the principal towns of Ulster for each quarter of the year 1900, and for the entire year.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Entire Year.
Belfast ...	26·5	20·6	18·9	19·2	21·3
L'derry ...	31·1	18·4	20·1	20·7	22·6
Newry ...	26·9	17·0	19·4	11·4	18·7
Lisburn ...	36·6	19·9	18·9	16·7	23·0
Lurgan ...	38·2	22·8	16·8	19·3	24·3
Ballymena ...	25.5	21·2	17·7	16·9	20·3
N'wtownards...	27 0	16·1	13·0	20·0	19·0
Car'fergus ...	15·7	18·4	12·6	13·9	15·1
P'rtadown ...	29·4	23·3	15·7	16·1	21·1
Armagh ...	26·2	21·9	14·8	17·5	20·1

TABLE D.

Showing the death-rate during each month of the years 1899 and 1900 in Lurgan.

	1899.	1900.
January	30·1	45·4
February	27·5	41·4
March	23·0	30·1
April	20·4	20·4
May	24·9	30·1
June	21·5	18·4
July	17·7	17·7
August	16·6	18·7
September	13·9	13·9
October	25·9	18·7
November	21·5	17·7
December	26·7	23·9

TABLE E.

Giving certain statistics of the two decennial periods, 1881-90 and 1891-1900, for the Sanitary District of Lurgan.

	1881-1890.	1891-1900.
Births	3307	3793
Birth-rate, average annual ...	30·7	33·2
Deaths	2452	2541
Death-rate, average annual ...	22·7	22·1
Zymotic deaths	262	268
Zymotic death-rate, aver. ann. ...	2.4	2.27
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...	485	448
,, of persons aged 60 & above	551	623
Natural increase of population ...	855	1252

The following two tables, "F" and "G," for the particulars in which I am indebted to Mr. S. A. Bell, jun., show the rainfall during the several months of the year 1900, as

recorded at Bellevue, and the total rainfall during each year of the decennium, 1891-1900.

Table F.

	Rainfall.
January...	2·26 inches.
February	2·42 ,,
March	·67 ,,
April	2·05 ,,
May	2·60 ,,
June	2·82 ,,
July	2·67 ,,
August	4·46 ,,
September	1·70 ,,
October	4·18 ,,
November	5·03 ,,
December	2·86 ,,
	Total, 33·72 inches.

Table G.

	Rainfall.
1891	28·54 inches.
1892	28·13 ,,
1893	23·41 ,,
1894	29·00 ,,
1895	29·28 ,,
1896	29·02 ,,
1897	30·07 ,,
1898	27·83 ,,
1899	29·56 ,,
1900	33·72 ,,
	Total, 288·56 inches.
	Average for 10 years, 28·85

As I mentioned at the commencement of this report, the year 1900 ends the decade, as well as the century, and I therefore append some tables showing the vital statistics of the town during the former period. I am also enabled to give a table showing the number of houses inhabited and uninhabited at the commencement of each decade since 1831, as well as the estimated population; and also a table giving some important details regarding the distribution of the population as regards age and sex at the commencement of the last decade, the particulars of which may be interesting in view of the fact that our next census is to be taken on the 31st March next, when we will be able to contrast our position in 1901 with what it was in 1891.

TABLE H.

Showing the number of births and deaths, and deaths from zymotic disease, with their respective rates for each year of the decennium, 1891 to 1900, and the natural increase of the population.

	Births.	Birth-rate.	Deaths.	Death-rate.	Deaths from zymotic disease.	Zymotic d'-rate.	Nat'l increase of population.
1891 ...	401	35·1	285	24·9	24	2·1	116
1892 ...	382	33·4	286	25·0	29	2·5	96
1893 ...	366	32·0	205	17·9	17	1·5	151
1894 ...	368	32·2	232	20·3	21	1·8	136
1895 ...	355	31·1	314	27·5	71	6·2	41
1896 ...	394	34·5	210	18·4	21	1·8	184
1897 ...	407	35·6	229	20·0	17	1·5	178
1898 ...	358	31·3	236	20·6	32	2·2	122
1899 ...	358	31·3	254	22·2	20	1·7	104
1900 ...	404	35·3	280	24·5	16	1·4	124
Total for 10 years...	3793	331·8	2541	221·3	268	22·7	1252
Aver. for 10 years...	379·3	33·2	2541	22·1	26·8	2·3	125·2

Table I.

Showing the number of deaths of infants under one year, and the number of deaths of persons aged 60 and upwards, as well as the number of deaths from Phthisis, during each year of the decennium, 1891-1900.

	Under 1 year	60 & upwards	Phthisis.
1891	61	68	—
1892	56	64	35
1893	29	56	38
1894	29	61	38
1895	51	67	40
1896	35	46	32
1897	48	53	39
1898	36	55	28
1899	41	69	38
1900	62	84	36

This table shows the number of deaths registered as having occurred from the following zymotic diseases during the past ten years, and during the previous decade.

Table J.

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	'91-'00	'81-'90
Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Measles... ...	0	17	1	9	26	0	0	12	3	0	68	55
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	3	4	2	3	1	4	2	0	19	59
Typhus	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	22
Whooping Cough	13	0	0	2	27	5	4	1	5	7	64	37
Diphtheria ...	1	2	3	4	3	3	0	1	1	3	21	6
Simple co'd fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Enteric fever ...	0	0	2	1	3	1	1	3	2	0	13	10
Diarrhoea ...	10	10	5	1	9	9	11	11	7	6	79	70
Total ...	24	29	17	21	71	21	17	32	20	16	268	262

Table K.

Statistics of population in 1891: age, and sex distribution.

Population	11,429	Males	4,911
Number of families ...	2,410	Females	6,518

Age Distribution.

	Under 1	7—9	9—12	12—20	20—40	40 up'ds.
Males	1009	245	315	808	1330	1204
Females	920	268	334	1156	2230	1610
Total ...	1929	513	649	1964	3560	2814

Table L.

The following table shows the number of dwelling-houses in the town of Lurgan at different periods, and also the estimated population.

Year.	Houses.	Population.
1831	639	3760
1841	722	4677
1851	688	4651
1861	1387	8232
1871	1968	10632
1881	2193	10135
1891	2304	11429
1901	2600	12000

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I must bear testimony to the uniform courtesy and support which I have always received at the hands of the Council, and which unquestionably tend to smooth the little irritations and annoyances which are inseparably connected with an impartial but firm discharge of the duties pertaining to a Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL AGNEW, M.D.,
Medical Superintendent
Officer of Health.